

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08473 061137Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8473

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: A. TEHRAN 7359, B. TEHRAN 7454, C. TEHRAN 7552, D. TEHRAN 7617,
E. TEHRAN 7618, F. TEHRAN 7659, G. TEHRAN 7779, H. TEHRAN 8013,
I. STATE 220088

1. REFTELS GIVE RUNNING ACCOUNT OF UNFOLDING EVENTS IN SHIRAZ
AND ISFAHAN WHICH MAY BE DRAWN ON TO ANSWER FRASER QUESTIONS
REF I. BELOW IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM U.S. CONSULS IN
SHIRAZ AND ISFAHAN SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO FRASER QUESTIONS.

2. ISFAHAN: CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S INFORMATION REGARDING
DEMONSTRATION IN ISFAHAN ON AUG 13 IS INCORRECT. MARTIAL
LAW WAS IMPOSED ON ISFAHAN ON AUG. 11 (REFS. D AND E) AND ONLY
INCIDENT KNOWN IN ISFAHAN ON AUG. 13 WAS BURNING OF A
RESTAURANT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTAL. THIS OCCURRED
DURING MARTIAL LAW CURFEW HOURS.

3. ISFAHAN DID HAVE PERIOD OF MAJOR UNREST, WITH DAILY
DEMONSTRATIONS AND CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN POLICE AND
CROWDS, COMMENCING ON AUG. 1 AND CONTINUING THROUGH AUG. 11.
DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WAS MASSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE,
ESPECIALLY TO BANKS, MOVIE THEATRES, LIQUOR STORES,
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, AND SOME INJURIES FROM FIRE, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08473 061137Z

PROJECTILES. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT SOME
DEMONSTRATORS WERE KILLED OR INJURED IN CONFRONTATIONS WITH
POLICE. EVENING OF AUG. 10/11 THESE DEMONSTRATIONS REACHED
A PEAK, WITH MANY MAJOR STREETS BLOCKED AND AT LEAST TWELVE
ARSON CASES. POLICE, WITH TROOPS, AND VIOLENT CONFRONTATION
WITH THE MOBS. OFFICIAL REPORTS INDICATE FOUR DEMONSTRATORS
WERE KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED WHILE 45 POLICEMEN AND 14

FIREMEN WERE ALSO INJURED. AT 3:00 P.M. AUG. 11, MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED WITH A CURFEW FROM 8:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M. (10 HOURS). SINCE THAT TIME ARMY TROOPS HAVE MAINTAINED CONTROL IN THE CITY AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS. THE CURFEW HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 10:00 P.M. TO 5:00 A.M. (7 HOURS).

4. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT NUMBER OF DEAD AND INJURED MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN ANNOUNCED. SINCE SOME FAMILIES FEARED LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF ADMITTING PARTICIPATIONS IN RIOTS, THEY MAY HAVE TREATED INJURED PERSONS AT HOME, AND POSSIBLY HAD PRIVATE BURIALS OF THE DEAD. WHILE THIS APPEARS PROBABLE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY IN TERMS OF EXACT NUMBERS. NO AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INJURED IN ANY OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS OR INCIDENTS TO THE PRESENT.

5. WITH RESPECT TO SHIRAZ, THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION AUG. 12, BUT ON AUG. 10 THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL RIOTING WHEN A CROWD EXITED FROM A MOSQUE AFTER VIOLENT HARANGUE (REF 3) AND BEGAN BREAKING WINDOWS AND ENGAGING IN OTHER VIOLENT ACTIVITY. POLICE AND ARMY REACTED FIRMLY AND SWIFTLY TO RESTORE ORDER. GOI ANNOUNCED AT TIME, THREE OR FOUR HAD BEEN KILLED AND MANY INJURED. LOCAL OFFICIALS TOLD CONSUL SEPT. 4 THAT ADDITIONAL THREE OR FOUR HAD DIED. SUBSEQUENTLY, BRINGING TOTAL TO SEVEN OR EIGHT DEAD. CHECK WITH LOCAL HOSPITALS CONFIRMS THOSE INJURED SERIOUSLY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 08473 061137Z

ENOUGH TO REQUIRE AT LEAST MINOR TREATMENT WERE NOT MORE THAN 70-80. LOCAL HEALTH AND BLOODBANK OFFICIALS CATEGORICALLY DENIED FRASER RUMORS ON REFUSAL OF TREATMENT AND TRANSFUSIONS. CONSUL NOTES RUMOR MAY HAVE STARTED BECAUSE BLOOD BANK IS TRADITIONALLY SHORT DURING RAMAZAN, WHEN MOSLEMS WILL NOT GIVE BLOOD. TREATMENT WAS NOT RPT NOT REFUSED AT HOSPITALS AND CLINICS, BUT SOME MAY NOT HAVE WISHED TO ATTEND FOR FEAR THEY WOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH OUTBREAK OF CIVIL VIOLENCE.

6. APPRECIATE FRASER'S BRINGING THESE STORIES TO OUR ATTENTION. FIGURES HE CITES FOR WOUNDED IN SHIRAZ AND UNSAVORY RUMORS ABOUT TREATMENT AND TRANSFUSION ARE SIMILAR TO EXAGGERATIONS PASSED AROUND BY OPPOSITIONIST FIGURES AFTER MOST MAJOR OUTBREAKS HERE, THEY HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT, BASED ON CONSUL'S CHECK WITH LOCAL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES.

7. EMBASSY POUCHING ISFAHAN AIRGRAM A-009 THIS WEEK WHICH CONTAINS GOOD REVIEW OF MARTIAL LAW PROCESS IN ISFAHAN WHICH HE MAY WISH TO REVIEW. THAT PLUS ISFAHAN'S EARLIER A-007, WHICH SHOULD NOW BE IN DEPART-

MENT, GIVE EXCELLENT SUMMARY OF ISFAHAN EVENTS WHICH DEPT.
MAY WISH TO USE IN CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSMAN
FRASER OR HIS STAFF.
SULLIVAN

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